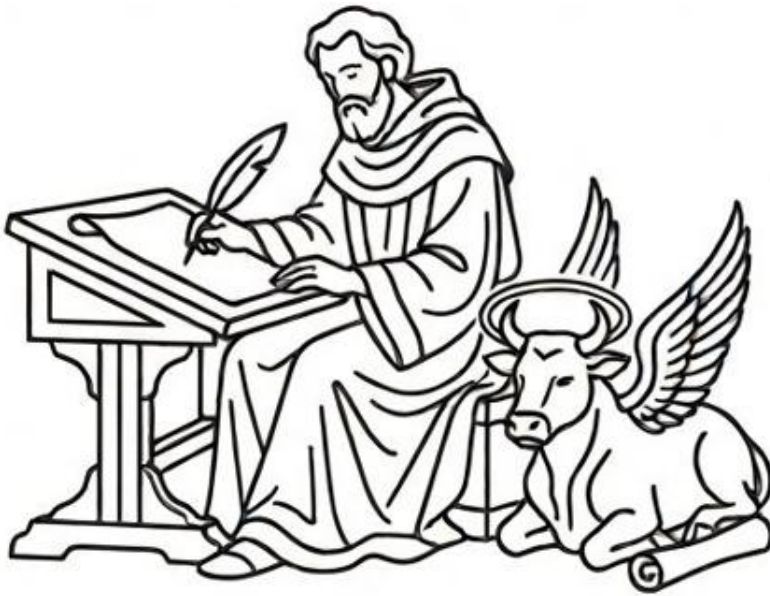




St. Luke, Evangelist

Festival Service

It's time to testify about the Scriptures

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

October 18, 2026

Welcome!

We are honored that you are with us today. May the Word of God that you hear strengthen your faith and increase your desire to serve the Lord! If you are a guest today, we are thankful you have joined us. We hope that you will join us again soon.

For your convenience

For your convenience, please take note of the following:

- **Restrooms** are to the left as you exit the sanctuary.
- **Nursery.** There is a room where children may be quieted to the left down the hall across from the bathrooms as you exit the sanctuary. A television allows you to see and hear the service.
- **Children's worship notes** are available. Ask an usher.
- **Hearing assistance.** A hearing loop is available in the worship area for hearing aids equipped with a T-coil.



If there is any other way in which we can assist you, let us know.

The service is streamed live online at elctempe.org/worship.

For the latest information about services schedules, please visit elctempe.org.



Connection card

*During the offering
we ask that you
complete an online
connection card.*

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost —October 18, 2026

St. Luke, Evangelist – Festival Service

The Beginning of the End: It's time to testify about the Scriptures

When you know that the end is approaching, what's the most important thing you can do? Some say that the vital thing at that point is to concentrate on your relationships. The most important relationship we have is with God.

The most important part of your personal relationship with God is the forgiveness of sins you have from him through faith in Jesus. The most important thing you can offer others in your life is his forgiveness revealed in his Scriptures.

There is only one way to come to know God and his forgiveness in Christ. It's through his Holy Word. Therefore, we look for opportunities to testify about the Scriptures, just as St. Luke did, because it's through the Scriptures that Jesus opens our minds to understand his forgiveness.

The beginning of the end is a good time to testify about the Scriptures since it's through the Scriptures that God prepares us for the end.



Service of the Word

We name our sons Luke. We have all seen Lutheran churches named St. Luke. The Christmas story we memorized as children came from the Gospel according to St. Luke. Who is this physician-turned pen-man? What do we know about the man who wrote much of the New Testament? What can we learn from him as an example for our Christian life? The Festival of St. Luke, Evangelist, observed on October 18, helps answer these questions.

Why do Lutherans celebrate the Festival of St. Luke? Because we believe what the Bible teaches.

God's Word says, "Remember your leaders who spoke the Word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith" (Hebrews 13:7). Lutherans are careful to remember the saints.

We don't pray to the saints or for the saints.

The Augsburg Confession, a foundational confession of the Lutheran Church, says, "Our churches teach that the history of saints may be set before us so that we may follow the example of their faith and good works, according to our calling... But the Scriptures do not teach that we are to call on the saints or to ask the saints for help" (Augsburg Confession, On the Worship of Saints, Article XXI).

Opening Hymn

747 Christ High-Ascended

Please stand.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

*During our services,
the congregation
speaks the responses
in **bold**.*

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against
you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole
heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both
now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent
suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a
sinner.**

Silence for meditation and reflection.

Absolution

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff. The key signature consists of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases featuring a descending scale. The lyrics are printed below the staff, aligned with the corresponding notes. The text is as follows:

Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the
high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al -
might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the
high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
 Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
 You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the
 high - est! Glo - ry, glo - ry to God, and peace to his
 peo - ple on earth. For you a - lone are the
 Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the

Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spir - it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
Glo - ry, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the
high - est! Glo - ry, glo - ry to God, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician to reveal in his Gospel the love and healing power of your Son. Grant that, by hearing and believing your Word, we may be healed of all sin and serve you with willing hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

First Reading

Acts 1:1–3

¹I wrote my first book, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began doing and teaching ²until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After he had suffered, he presented himself alive to the apostles with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and told them things about the kingdom of God.

The "gospel" is the Good News of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our forgiveness and eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 41

The congregation sings the refrains and the verses in bold font.

Refrain



Psalm tone



Blessed are those who have regard for the weak;
the LORD delivers them in times of trouble.

The LORD protects and preserves them;

he does not give them over to the desire of their foes.

The LORD sustains them on their sickbed
and restores them from their bed of illness.

Refrain

All my enemies whisper together against me;
even my close friend, one who shared my bread, has turned against me.

But may you have mercy on me, LORD;

because of my integrity you uphold me and set me in your presence forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Second Reading

2 Timothy 4:5–11

*Even as St. Paul
nears death, he
urges Timothy to
faithfully do the
work of an
evangelist, offering
the crown of life to
all believers.*

⁵As for you, keep a clear head in every situation. Bear hardship. Do the work of an evangelist. Fulfill your ministry.

⁶You see, I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on, there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness. The Lord, the righteous Judge, will give it to me on that day, and not only to me but also to everyone who loved his appearing.

⁹Make every effort to come to me quickly, ¹⁰for Demas, because he loved this present world, has forsaken me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is useful to me for ministry.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

John 20:31

Alleluia. These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 1:1–4; 24:44–53

*St. Luke the
Evangelist
summarizes the
Christian message as
"repentance and the
forgiveness of sins."*

¹Many have undertaken to compile an account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, ²an account like those handed down to us by those who were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word from the beginning. ³For this reason, it seemed good to me also, since I followed everything closely from the beginning, to write an orderly account to you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴so that you may know the certainty of the things you were taught.

⁴⁴[Jesus] said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms."

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He said to them, "This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰He led them out as far as the vicinity of Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹And while he was blessing them, he parted from them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵²So they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³They were continually in the temple courts, praising and blessing God. Amen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day

892 By All Your Saints Still Striving



1 By all your saints still striv - ing, for all your saints at rest,
2 For Luke, be - lov'd phy - si - cian, all praise, whose Gos - pel shows
3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther and wor - ship God the Son



your ho - ly name, O Je - sus, for - ev - er - more be blessed.
the heal - er of the na - tions, the one who shares our woes.
and sing to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One,



You rose, our King vic - to - rious, that they might wear the crown
Re - store our wound-ed spir - its when we have lost our way;
till all the ran-somed num - ber who stand be - fore the throne



and ev - er shine in splen - dor re - flect - ed from your throne.
af - firm our Fa - ther's mer - cy and bring us home to stay.
as - cribe all pow'r and glo - ry and praise to God a - lone.

Sermon

Luke 1:1-4; 24:44-53

Testify to the certainty of the Scriptures

Please stand.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated.



Give online

*If you prefer
online giving, you
may scan this code.*

Offering

Musical Offering

Please stand.



Connection card

*During the offering
we ask that you
complete an online
connection card.*

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for the Church, rejoicing that through it the message of salvation has been preserved and transmitted. We bless you for the work of the evangelists who put the gospel into the written word. Grant, Lord, that the message of salvation be proclaimed and the gifts of God be shared in all generations. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the world in which we live. Make us to be people who come and go in peace so that the world becomes a better place. Grant that we enjoy the blessings we receive each day with thankful hearts. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who follow in the footsteps of Luke as blessings to others through their callings. We remember all pastors and educators, doctors, nurses, and all medical personnel, and those engaged in Christian charitable work. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those with special needs and concerns this day, especially the hospitalized, the grieving, the unemployed, the shut-ins, and all others for whom our petitions are desired. Enable us to encourage, uphold, and strengthen those around us in your name. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As we bring our petitions, Lord, we remember not only Luke, but all who have departed this life and now are rejoicing in the glory of your promised heavenly kingdom. Direct our ways on earth that we complete this life in faith and at last rejoice together with saints and angels and all the company of heaven. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Special prayers and intercessions.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Be seated.

Hymn

745 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying

Please stand.

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

929 May the Peace of God

Post-Service Music

Serving at Worship

Minister

Pastor Gary Pufahl

Piano

Erin Hahnke

Acolytes

Video streamer and slides

Cathy Wightman, Charlie Myers

Video captions

Jeremy Burmeister

Sound

Wes Wightman

Acknowledgments

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In our prayers

- Ken Dins – Home recovering.
- Chris Heise – Home recovering.
- Kaylee – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Louise Sallquist – Home recovering.
- Scott Trautman – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Bill Welker – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Bill Zidar – Receiving treatments for cancer.

Ushers

8:00 a.m.

Noah Gruman, David Kraus, Jim Olson, Jacob Pufahl

10:30 a.m.

Caden Head, Michael Kobs, Ryan Konig

Landscaping

Thank you to Pastor Pufahl and family for helping maintain, trim and clean the outside church property this week.

This week at Emmanuel

Sunday

Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person adult Bible study	9:15 a.m.
	<i>Adult Bible class: Taboo Topics</i>
	<i>Table Talk: Galatians</i>
Sunday school, teen and junior high Bible study	9:15 a.m.
Public school Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.

Monday

ELS	Classes resume
Light in the Valley – campus ministry	Canceled

Tuesday

Church Council meeting	Canceled
Women of the Word (WOW) ladies group event	6:00-8:00 p.m.
	<i>General meeting, wine and cheese</i>

Wednesday

Wednesday Bible study	No class this week
Adult choir practice	6:30 p.m.

Thursday

Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Joseph</i>
	<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>
	<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>
God's Ways Bible study	6:00-8:30 p.m.
Bible Basics class	6:30-8:00 p.m.

Friday

ELS parent/teacher conferences	No school
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Saturday

ELS volleyball tournament	TBA
	<i>Arizona Lutheran Academy</i>
Fall campus work day	8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
WELS Youth Night @ Emmanuel	5:00-8:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 25

Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person adult Bible study	9:15 a.m.
	<i>Adult Bible class: Taboo Topics</i>
	<i>Table Talk: Galatians</i>
Sunday school, teen and junior high Bible study	9:15 a.m.
Public school Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.
East Valley Area Reformation service	4:00 p.m.
	<i>Fellowship following the service</i>

Looking ahead

October 27	Quarterly Voters' meeting	6:30-8:30 p.m.
October 30	ELS Christ-Connection-Coffee	9:00-10:00 a.m.
	Joy Fellowship movie and potluck in MEC	<i>following ELS chapel</i> 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
October 31	Setup for Family Fall Festival	8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
November 1	Family Fall Festival	4:00-6:00 p.m.
November 3	Stewardship meeting	8:00 p.m.
November 4-6	ELS Arizona-California teachers' conference	No school
November 6	<i>Helping the Hurting</i> training session	6:30-8:30 p.m.
	<i>Heritage Lutheran Church, Gilbert, Arizona</i>	
November 7	Elders' meeting	7:30-9:00 a.m.
	<i>Helping the Hurting</i> training session	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
	<i>Heritage Lutheran Church, Gilbert, Arizona</i>	
	Memorial service for Elaine Kern	10:00 a.m.
	<i>Reception following the service</i>	
November 10	Evangelism meeting	6:30 p.m.
November 11	Veterans Day program	1:00 p.m.
November 15	Emmanuel teen night	6:00-8:00 p.m.
November 22	Grief Share – Surviving the Holidays	2:00-4:00 p.m.
November 25	ELS Thanksgiving break	Noon dismissal
	Thanksgiving Eve worship service	6:30 p.m.
	Adult choir	No practice
November 26-27	ELS Thanksgiving break	No school
November 26	Thanksgiving Day	Church office closed
	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	No class
	Thanksgiving Day worship service	9:00 a.m.
	God's Ways Bible study	No class
	Bible Basics class	No class
November 27	Day after holiday	Church office closed
November 29	Public school Catechism	No class
November 30	ELS	Classes resume
December 1	Stewardship meeting	8:00 p.m.
December 2	Midweek Advent worship	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
	Midweek Advent meal	4:45-6:15 p.m.
December 5	Elders' meeting	7:30-9:00 a.m.
	Invitation handout: Christmas	9:00-11:00 a.m.
December 6	Emmanuel Lutheran Church's 75th anniversary	
	Adult Bible study, Sunday school, teen Bible study	No classes
	Emmanuel's 75th anniversary celebration	9:15 a.m.
	<i>Fellowship and presentation</i>	
	Advent by Candlelight	2:00-4:00 p.m.

Notes and News

Connection cards

The connection cards have a valuable purpose in helping us serve you better. We ask all our worshipers to help us serve you by scanning the QR code, by going to elctempe.org/connect, or by filling out one of the cards in the pews. Thank you!



Connection card

During the offering we ask that you complete an online connection card.

Staff Spotlight | Pastor Appreciation Month

Our pastors dedicate their lives to the service of God and sharing his Word. October is Pastor Appreciation Month and is a time to serve as an opportunity to highlight our pastors and honor their service to our church, community and Jesus' mission. Let's show our thanks and gratitude to our pastors this month.

As part of Pastor Appreciation Month, each week we will be highlighting one of our pastors. The last two weeks we have highlighted Pastor Dan Pautz and Pastor Jon Buchholz. This week we are highlighting Pastor Gary Pufahl. Do you know what his favorite Bible verse is? What about his favorite lunch spot near Emmanuel? See page 19 to find the answers and other interesting facts about Pastor Pufahl!

Women of the Word ladies' group event | October 20

Emmanuel's ladies' group WOW (*Women of the Word*) is having a general meeting on Tuesday, October 20, starting at 6:00 p.m. Ladies of Emmanuel are welcome to join us for wine and cheese, fellowship, and to discuss upcoming events and service opportunities for the ladies' group. We will be meeting in the MEC (Ministry and Education Center). Bring a friend and come prepared for a fun evening of food and fellowship.

Campus Fall work day | October 24

With the weather turning to our favor, it's time to do some of our outdoor projects that have been a challenge over the summer. This clean-up day also helps us prepare for Reformation and our Family Fall Festival. We will start at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 24, and go until completed. You are welcome to come when you can and help as long as you're able. Thank you!

WELS Youth Night | October 24

Calling all teens! Join us on Saturday, October 24, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church for WELS Youth Night. This is an evening for Phoenix-area high school teens to gather around God's Word, have some fun, and encourage one another in Christ. The event will be from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and you can look forward to food, games, fellowship, and a keynote on fear and how God's Word combats it in our lives. Come join us and invite a friend! Visit our website (elctempe.org/youth), or use the QR code, to learn more and to [register](#) prior to the event. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the event, use the [volunteer link](#).



WELS Youth Night



Reformation
fellowship dinner
– Volunteer signup

East Valley Joint Reformation Service | October 25

The special East Valley Joint Reformation Service will be held here at Emmanuel on Sunday, October 25, at 4:00 p.m. Join us for another powerful celebration of God's grace! The service theme this year is: *The truth will set you free*. In a world where truth is relative and the future is uncertain, we build our lives on the solid rock of God's Word, the immovable truth of Scripture. Pastor Timothy Henning of Chino Valley, Arizona, will serve as our guest preacher. Following the service, we will enjoy food and fellowship in the Ministry and Education Center.

If you are able to help set up, prep food, serve, clean up, or donate, please [review the volunteer opportunities and items needed](#), and sign up today. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

JOY Fellowship | October 30

Our Joy Fellowship group is for those 55 years and older. Join us as we meet on Friday, October 30, at 9:30 a.m. in the MEC, to watch *The Great Awakening*. It is a historical film of an unlikely friendship between the Rev. George Whitefield and founding father Benjamin Franklin. The focus is the surge of Christianity in the Colonies. We will have a movie discussion and enjoy a potluck. Please bring a main dish and/or dessert to share. If you have any questions, contact Wendy Binger at (480) 452-6169.

Family Fall Festival | Donations and volunteers needed

Our annual Family Fall Festival is scheduled for Sunday, November 1, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. This is a fun, family-friendly event with Trunk-or-Treat, bounce houses and more. Visit our website (elctempe.org/fallfestival) or use the QR code for more information.



Family Fall Festival
– Information

We are in need of donations and volunteers. Donations needed include cans of soda, cases of water bottles, juice boxes, non-chocolate candy, fruit snacks, and snack size bags of: chips, pretzels, popcorn, and cookies.

In order to make this a successful event, we need people like you. If you're interested in volunteering, please visit our [website](#) by scanning the QR code. Volunteer opportunities may include: providing and decorating a [trunk for Trunk-or-Treat](#), setting up, decorating, staffing an activity (such as bounce house, food table, etc.), clean-up and take-down ([full list of volunteer opportunities found here](#)).

Kingdom Workers' Helping the Hurting training sessions | November 6-7

[Kingdom Workers](#) is a global, Christian nonprofit that partners with Christians to share Jesus' love while helping their neighbors. Their aim is physical and spiritual healing for the people they serve, which results in lasting change that glorifies God. One of Kingdom Workers' programs is [RISE](#), a program that helps train advocates to support survivors of relationship abuse. They are hosting *Helping the Hurting* training sessions at Heritage Lutheran Church in Gilbert, Arizona, on Friday, November 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m., and Saturday, November 7, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sign up for one or both sessions using [the sign-up form](#) or scan the QR code.



*Helping the Hurting
training*

Help needed for livestream captioning

Have a computer? Like creating PowerPoint slides? Got a few extra hours you could lend a hand? The livestream team needs help creating captions for Sunday services. Requirements: Computer with access to the internet, and working knowledge of PowerPoint and a few hours of your time. Work can be done from home. Training is available. Please contact Chris Wempner at cwempner@elstempe.org.

Veterans Day program | November 11

Emmanuel Lutheran School will be hosting a Veterans Day Program on Wednesday, November 11. All veterans and their spouses are invited to a luncheon beginning at noon. Invitation flyers are available in the back of church for veterans. Feel free to take as many as you need to share with veterans.

Please RSVP for the lunch by calling the school office at (480) 967-3991, emailing Miss Chris Wempner at cwempner@elstempe.org, using the provided QR code, or clicking on this [lunch link](#). The students will present a program beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the church. All congregational members and parents are invited to attend and help us honor the veterans.



*RSVP for Veterans
Day program*

Grief Share

Christians grieve differently than the world around us because of the hope we have in Christ. But even though Christians grieve with hope, the loss of a loved one presents unexpected challenges as they learn to navigate a world without their loved one. The holiday season can be especially challenging. With this in mind, Emmanuel is excited to present our new Grief Share support group, which intends to provide a safe space to share our struggles, our experiences, and find comfort in God's word. If you or someone you know has struggled with grief, consider joining our Grief Share support group on either Sunday, November 22, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., or on Tuesday, December 8, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Learn more and register for either event using the QR code or visiting our website (elctempe.org/griefshare). Reach out to Pastor Gensmer with any questions.



Grief Share

Christian education hour

Here is a list of our classes, topics, and locations for our Sunday morning education hour.

The **Adult Bible study** is meeting in the Oak Room of the Ministry and Education Center (MEC). The study topic today is "Taboo Topics."

The **Table Talk Bible study** is meeting in the Olive Room of the Ministry and Education Center (MEC). The study topic today is "Galatians."

The **Teen Bible study Grades 9-12** is meeting in the 7th grade classroom on the second floor of the MEC. The study topic today is "The Beginning of the End: It's time to testify about the Scriptures."

The **Junior High Bible study Grades 7-8** is meeting in the 8th grade classroom on the second floor of the MEC. The study topic today is "The Beginning of the End: It's time to testify about the Scriptures."

The Sunday School for **Grades 4-6** is meeting in the 4th grade classroom at the south campus. The study topic today is "A Sign and A Promise."

The Sunday School for **Grades 1-3** is meeting in the 3rd grade classroom at the south campus. The study topic today is "A Sign and A Promise."

The Sunday School for **4K Preschool-Kindergarten** is meeting in the kindergarten classroom at the south campus. The study topic today is "A Sign and A Promise."

The Sunday School for **two- and three-year-olds** is meeting in the preschool classrooms at the south campus. Parents are encouraged to remain with their children. The study topic today is "David and Jonathan are friends."

The **MUMs** (mothers understanding mothers) group is meeting in the church nursery. This is for moms and their children under age 2.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



PASTOR GARY PUFAHL

EDUCATION

Martin Luther College
(1999, Bachelor of Arts)
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
(2004, Master of Divinity)

SERVICE AT EMMANUEL

- Began serving at Emmanuel in February 2021
- Lead pastor
- Areas of Service:
 - Leadership, adult discipleship, Church Council, Board of Elders, Communications Committee, Stewardship Committee, Circuit Pastor of our Superstition Mountains Circuit, counseling, choir, quartet singing, tuba playing, etc.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO ENTER THE MINISTRY?

My parents and my pastor encouraged me to consider being a pastor when I was in eighth grade. Throughout high school, I considered serving as a pastor, lawyer, math teacher, or Spanish teacher.

TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF

FAMILY: My dear wife is Kris, and we have four children ranging in ages from 17 to 23 years old.

HOBBIES: I enjoy camping, kayaking, fishing, hunting, reading, bowling, hiking, backpacking, going to sporting events, sipping coffee or sparkling water from Panera Bread, and being with my family, friends, and congregational members.

FAVORITE EMMANUEL MEMORY: Regularly seeing the connections people make with each other in our Ministry and Education Center.

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE:
2 Corinthians 5:21

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT ARIZONA:
The winter months

FAVORITE LUNCH SPOT NEAR EMMANUEL:
Culver's or Panera Bread

ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?

It is a true joy to serve Jesus and his people at Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School. Thank you for the opportunity to do so!



The Truth Will Set You Free

"If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples. You will also know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

—John 8:31,32

The 509th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation
East Valley Area Reformation Service
Emmanuel Ev. Lutheran Church
Tempe, Arizona
October 25, 2026

Join us for Emmanuel's
Family Fall Festival!
Sunday, November 1,
4:00 - 6:00 PM

- Trunk-or-Treat in a safe, fun environment
- Photo Booth
- Bounce Houses
- Face Painting
- Door Prizes
- Food available (cash only)



Learn more





Goal: \$800,000
Purpose: Ministry Expansion and Debt Reduction

In December of 2024 we closed the construction loan for our new Ministry and Education Center. Our construction loan balance was converted to a fully-amortized, principal-and-interest loan with a 20-year loan term.

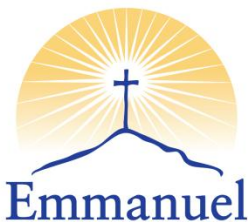
At that time, our starting balance was \$3,014,874. Since then, we've been using your gifts to pay additional principal each month. As of October 9, 2026, our balance was down to \$2,281,709. That's a reduction of over \$733,165 in outstanding principal – and that means we'll be paying less interest on that balance!

About 13 months from now, at the beginning of December 2027, our interest rate will reset to a new rate. We are currently locked into a rate of 4.25%, but when we hit December of next year, a new rate will lock in for the next five years. We expect the rate will be higher, but the more we can pay down our principal balance, the lower our new payment will be.

Would you like to make a special gift to *It's Harvest Time*? Do you have a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) that you would like to designate for the campaign through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)? Speak with congregation president Chet Jaehnig, (480) 329-5766, about ways you can leverage tax strategies to benefit your own finances and support the Lord's work.

Thank you for your generous gifts! Your contributions are laying a foundation for gospel ministry for generations to come.

ALREADY PAID: \$733,165	
BALANCE LEFT TO PAY: \$2,281,709	ORIGINAL MORTGAGE PRINCIPAL: \$3,014,874



About Us

Emmanuel Lutheran Church shares the love of Jesus and the truth of his saving Word with the people in our church, our community and the world.

The objectives of our mission are:

- To **preach**, by proclaiming the Word of God, as we worship and praise God in a loving Christian atmosphere;
- To **teach**, by fostering an ongoing increase in knowledge and maturity in God's Word;
- To **reach**, by sharing the Gospel of God's Word with all people, and to do so;
- By **each** member actively participating in our ministry.

Pastor Gary A. Pufahl

gpufahl@elctempe.org

(262) 744-1619

Pastor Daniel R. Gensmer

dgensmer@elctempe.org

(615) 887-3816

Pastor Jon D. Buchholz

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(602) 377-1915

Pastor Daniel D. Pautz

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(480) 766-2994

Church Secretary Alysha Bergsma

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(480) 967-3983

Principal Craig Kiecker

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(623) 313-5614

Music Director Kevin Bode

kbode@elstempe.org

(480) 694-3532

Financial Operations Mgr. Darcy Meyer

treasurer@elctempe.org

(480) 344-3783

School Secretary Amani Campos

school@elstempe.org

(480) 967-3991

Member Ministry Coordinator

Benjamin Ruppel

bruppel@elctempe.org

(480) 967-3983

Emmanuel Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the Wisconsin Synod as well as the churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).



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